

Fund Development Office

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

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Dear Friend, May 2021

The month of May honors Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and our own mothers. It is a time for reflection on the role of mothers in our lives.

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord," was Mary's response to the angel's announcement to her. Our community had a tradition of accepting our ministry assignments by our response – in Latin, "Ecce ancilla domini." Mary is our role model in being ready to do the will of God.

The month of May is a good time to think of all the "mothers" in our lives. Mine include my own mother; my godmother who took her role as spiritual guide very seriously; our Foundress Mother Lurana; and the ten Sisters who have served as the elected leaders of the Sisters of the Atonement since Lurana's death. Your own list might also include teachers, mentors and other role models in your life. Let us remember these women very specially this month.

In one of his letters Saint Paul praises the women responsible for Timothy's faith: "I find myself thinking of your sincere faith – faith which first belonged to your grandmother Lois and to your mother Eunice, and which (I am confident) you also have." (2 Timothy 1:5)

Formation in the faith is a primary work of our community - helping impart the Catholic faith to all ages - children and adults - whether in formal classes, by our services to people in need, through prayer, or by our silent witness. A contributor recently sent a memorial gift in honor of one of our Sisters with these words: "Although we had not met, Sister was a prayer warrior to our family."

Your support ensures that our Sisters will be like mothers to many who need someone to guide them in their faith lives, and be imitators of Mary in bringing people to her Son.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA

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Development Director